

# Message from Superintendent Ritz

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## Weekly Message from Superintendent Ritz July 8, 2016

As Superintendent I am committed to ensuring that all stakeholder groups, administrators, teachers, parents and community members receive frequent and relevant communication directly from me to you. As such, I would like to share my most recent videos for parents and educators of the 2015-16 school year.

Today's messages provide families and educators with resources and information on the 2016 ISTEP+ assessment as well as literacy resources for students to use at school and at home.

A link to the educator video can be found [here](#) and the family video can be found [here](#). Please feel free to share these videos within your communities.

Also this week, I would like to share a [FAQ](#) on the topic of piloting ISTEP+ test items, and the future of assessment in Indiana given the Governor's signature of HEA1395 ending ISTEP in its current form, yet providing for a framework of a continued assessment system aligned to the assessment expectations of the USED Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Please share this [FAQ](#) with your school community.

Have a Great week!

Sincerely,

Glenda Ritz, NBCT

Superintendent of Public Instruction



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## ESSA Flexibility Waiver Related News

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), replaces No Child Left Behind. The new ESSA will

begin to take effect in August of 2016 and our current waiver from certain aspects of No Child Left Behind remains in effect until then. See the attached [press release](#) to learn more.

A copy of the waiver application can be found [here](#) . If you have any questions, please contact Federal Relations Director Jeff Coyne at [jcoyne@doe.in.gov](mailto:jcoyne@doe.in.gov).

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Hoosier Family of Readers initiative, students and their families across the state have unlimited access to reading material on [myON](#)

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**The Secretary of Education** (USED) recently announced the [Career Technical Education Makeover Challenge](#), a USED -sponsored competition offering a total of \$200,000 divided equally among as many as 10 award recipients to transform classrooms or available spaces in high schools into places where students have access to tools to design, build, and innovate.

Specifically, the CTE Makeover Challenge calls upon secondary schools to design models of "makerspaces" – formalized spaces for making things. These facilities may be classrooms, libraries, and mobile spaces, all of which will provide resources for students to create and learn through making. Such locations are ideal spaces for students to gain essential 21st century career skills, such as critical thinking, planning, and communication.

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## IDOE Memoranda

**Indiana State Board of Education** approved a version of the growth to proficiency table that is used to determine growth points for the new student-centered accountability system. Please go to the Department's website at [www.doe.in.gov/accountability/growth](http://www.doe.in.gov/accountability/growth) to view the table and to submit public comment on the table. All comments must be submitted no later than 4:30pm EST on April 14, 2016. Questions may be directed to [schoolaccountability@doe.in.gov](mailto:schoolaccountability@doe.in.gov) .

**Advancements from the Common School Fund**, The Office of School Finance will accept applications for construction and technology loans from public school corporations and school corporation career and technical education schools only from **March 17, 2016 through April 8, 2016** to be considered. Petitions for advancements may be obtained under the Files and Bookmarks tab, in the Common School Loan folder, or by requesting it from LaTrice Akers at [lakers@doe.in.gov](mailto:lakers@doe.in.gov) or Melissa Ambre [mambre@doe.in.gov](mailto:mambre@doe.in.gov). 317-232-0844

**Public School Transfers** (IC 20-26-11-32), requires public school corporations to report to the Indiana Department of Education the date by which requests to transfer must be received by the school corporation. [Please use the following link to report](#) no later than July 1, 2016. The Indiana Department of Education will post the information on: [http:// www.doe.in.gov/public-school-transfers](http://www.doe.in.gov/public-school-transfers) For additional information call 317/232-9150 or [cdanyluk@doe.in.gov](mailto:cdanyluk@doe.in.gov)

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## Professional Development

**NEW - Schoolhouse News**, from the Indiana Association of School Principals is full of timely, pertinent information to keep you up to date and informed regarding educational matters around the state. <http://www.iasp.org/ingram/march2016.pdf>

**NEW - Indiana School Health conference**, June 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis for the annual Indiana School Health conference brought to you by the Indiana School Health Network and Covering Kids and Families of Indiana. [Register now](#) Visit [www.inschoolhealth.org](http://www.inschoolhealth.org) for the latest information.

**Indiana State Library's INSPIRE Digital Literacy Resource**, [INSPIRE](#) has licensed TeachingBooks.net - a service that enhances your literacy work with instructional and primary source materials about the books and authors your students are reading. To learn more register for INSPIRE Webinars covering a variety of topics including Indiana reading lists, cross curricular resources and more. Details

### **The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching**

**(PAEMST)** PAEMST are the nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science (including computer science). The 2016 Awards will honor mathematics and science teachers working in grades K-6. Nominations close on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. To nominate please visit <https://www.paemst.org/>.

**Indiana State Fair Field Trips** are an opportunity for Classroom and Home Educators to enhance classroom curriculum by utilizing an educational experience that cannot be accomplished in the classroom setting. Field trips require [pre-registration](#) and 15 or more students of the appropriate grade level of the selected field trip.

**Indiana Education Service Centers** offer a variety of professional development opportunities. To learn more about professional learning opportunities in your area, visit the website of an Education Service Center in your area.

- [Region 8 Education Service Center](#)
- [Central Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [Northwest Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [Southern Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [East Central Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [West Central Indiana Education Service Center](#)
- [Wabash Valley Education Service Center](#)
- [Wilson Education Center ESC Region 2](#)

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## **Legislative & Policy Updates**

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## **Information from Other Agencies**

**NEW - Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission, INAIAC SCHOLARSHIP.** The INAIAC Summer School scholarship deadline is April 15th. The INAIAC will award five scholarships of \$1,000 each for the upcoming summer school session. Students who wish to apply must meet the following criteria to be considered:

- A resident of Indiana
- Attending an Indiana college or university
- Enrolled in a federally recognized tribe, the Miami Nation of Indians of Indiana, Alaska Native or Native Hawai'ian

For an application, call (317) 917-8000 or email [info@AmericanIndianCenter.org](mailto:info@AmericanIndianCenter.org)

**The United States Department of Justice**, Office of Justice Programs and National Institute of Justice recently announced that they are seeking applications for the Comprehensive School Safety Initiative. Local schools are allowed to apply and you can find more information here (<http://nij.gov/funding/Documents/solicitations/NIJ-2016-9093.pdf>). The deadline to apply is May 27, 2016.

**Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites** offer free field trips to all K-12 Indiana school groups. Field trips are critical to a well-rounded education and provide a lifetime of memories. USA Funds has pledged another \$10,000 this year for a matching gift challenge. To learn more about how to donate and the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, please visit: [www.IndianaMuseum.org](http://www.IndianaMuseum.org)

**Indiana Supreme Court to celebrate bicentennial in Corydon with oral argument in original courtroom.** (May 5, 1817) The Indiana Department of Education is encouraging classrooms across the state to participate through an archived webcast of the argument which is available April 22. Attorneys and judges are invited to visit a school in their community as part of the celebration to talk about the judicial branch. Educators and speakers will have access to case briefs and other resources at [courts.in.gov/corydon](http://courts.in.gov/corydon) that provide teaching points for speaking to students. ( [press release](#) )

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